

for Speaker, Lewis and Hooper, the great outfielding trio, are all in the midst of a batting uprising.

Rowland is well fortified to repulse the invaders. Scott is in the best form of his career, Faber has always been effective against the Red Sox, and Benz, Cicotte and Russell are dependable. And the South Siders are traveling with the inspiration of a winning streak to keep their spirits booming.

This American league race is a free-for-all between the top three clubs, and it is doubtful if any one of the trio will be absolutely counted out before the closing days of September. The Red Sox and Tigers are veteran organizations which will not crumble in the stretch, and have the courage and experience to recover from a slump.

But Rowland's people, while not so experienced, possess the same qualifications. They have Eddie Collins and Ray Schalk to furnish the pepper and inspiration, and the pitching corps is battle scarred and right at home when pitching in crucial situations.

Red Sox are more to be feared by Chicagoans than Tigers. Jennings has a smashing outfield, but his pitching staff is weak, his catching department is not wonderful and his infield is merely an average combination. Red Sox, on the other hand, have a whacking good infield and a raft of pitchers from whom miracles can be expected. If Ray Collins can pitch some more two-hit games their chances will mount.

Bresnahan had his men up for a lecture yesterday before they met the Giants and the tongue-lashing brought results immediately. Roger is understood to have explained in words of one syllable that he was going to have a ball team that tried all the time, whether it won games or not, and would take drastic measures to secure such a combination if there was not a sudden awakening.

Then the Cubs went out and played

away above the Giants and had them whipped all the way. Lavender pitched his best ball of the year. He has allowed fewer hits on two or three occasions, but never before in 1915 did he pitch with such ease and confidence. The entire team appeared to be playing together. And that spirit will win ball games in the National league this season, for several of the teams are in the doldrums and have no hope of emerging from the ruck.

But playing such baseball for one day will avail nothing. The popular belief that the Phillies would fade in the scorching sun is rapidly dissolving and Brooklyn has now come forward with a fine and interested brand of baseball to threaten the leaders.

Philadelphia is getting some good pitching from Demaree and Rixey to assist Alexander and Mayer, who have done the bulk of the winning so far. Moran is wisely using Alexander only every fourth day, and the Nebraskan is as strong as he was at the start of the season. The Phils are playing without fear of a slump, for they are confident that they can lose only three straight under any conditions, never figuring that Alex is beatable.

This cannot help but have an exalting effect on the morale of the team, and it also serves as a tonic to the other pitchers.

Brooklyn's team on paper is the best in the league and is at last making a real run for the top.

There is no reason why the National and American should hog the limelight, however. In the Federal the fight between the leading trio is just as desperate as in the two organized circuits, and Whales, St. Louis and Kansas City can all change places on one day's results.

The recent rush of the Whales to the top from sixth place has been a thriller. Especially as the greater portion of the advancing has been done while playing on foreign fields. Thirteen out of eighteen were won